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XLVI.—*Descriptions of several new or imperfectly-defined Genera and Species of Birds.* By H. E. STRICKLAND, M.A.

[With Four Plates.]

THE details of zoology are now diffused over so wide a field of literature, that it is next to impossible to pronounce with certainty that any given specimen belongs to an undescribed species; and although confusion is often caused by the too hasty and careless definition under new names of species previously described, yet, on the other hand, science may be retarded by too great backwardness in making known new species and groups. With this feeling I now venture to describe a few out of many species of birds which have long remained unnamed in my cabinet; and though it is very possible that some of them may be already described in works to which I have not had access, yet having searched carefully through a large number of ornithological publications without meeting with any notice of these species, I am disposed to believe that the majority of them are really nondescript.

FALCONIDÆ, ACCIPITRINÆ.

Genus *ISCHNOSCELES*, Strickland (*ισχνοσκελης*, exilia habens crura).

Rostrum asturinum, subexiguum, elevatum, compressum, cera longiuscula, culmine satis curvato, dextro hamato, commissura subrecta, vix sinuata, dextrum versus subito deflexa, mandibula debili, denticulo obtuso versus apicem instructa, gonyde vix ascendente. Nares ovatae, obliquae. Alae mediocres, caudae trientem attingentes, rotundatae, remigibus graduatis, 5^a et 6^a longissimis. Cauda elongata, rotundata. Tarsi gracillimi, acrotarsiis paratarsiisque scutatis, scutis laevigatis, subobsoletis. Digniti graciles, digitus medius elongatus, *externus interno multum brevior*. Ungues curvati, acuti, subtus complanati, externus longe minimus, alii subaequales.

Typus *Ischnosceles gracilis* (Falco gracilis, Temm. Pl. Col. 91).

The slenderness of the tarsi in this bird, and the remarkable proportions of the toes, seem to justify its generic separation from *Astur* and from *Accipiter*, where it has been hitherto classed. The external toe (exclusive of the claw) falls short of the extre-

mity of the second phalanx of the middle toe, and the end of the inner toe is parallel with the middle of the third phalanx, while in most other Raptorial birds the outer toe is longer than the inner.

SYLVIIDÆ, SAXICOLINÆ.

PRATINCOLA PASTOR, Strickl.

Le Pâtre, *Levaill. Ois. Af.* pl. 180.

P. ptilosi omnino Pratincola rubicola (Linn.), nisi uropygio, abdomine, caudæque tectricibus omnibus (etiam in femina) pure albis, pectore intense rufo.

Hab. In Africa meridionali.

Several authors have mentioned the common stonechat of Europe (*Pratincola rubicola*) as occurring in South Africa, but I believe that all the specimens which have been so considered will be found to belong to the present nearly allied species. It was first indicated as a distinct species by Levaillant, but as later writers have persisted in uniting it with *P. rubicola*, it has never yet received a systematic name. The plumage is identical with that of *P. rubicola*, except that the rufous of the breast is more intense, and the belly and upper and lower tail-covers in both sexes are uniform pure white. The dimensions are moreover rather larger than in *P. rubicola*.

Total length $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches; beak to gape $7\frac{1}{2}$ lines, to front 5 lines; wing $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; medial rectrices 2 inches 4 lines, external 2 inches 2 lines; tarsus 11 lines.

TURDIDÆ, PITTINÆ.

PITTA CUCULLATA, Hartlaub. [Plate XI.]

P. summo capite ferrugineo, loris, mento, gutture, genis, auricularibus, nuchoque nigerrimis, dorso, scapularibus, remigibus tertialibus, tectricibusque dorso proximis obscure viridibus, tectricibus majoribus externis obscure viridi-cæruleis, minoribus et uropygio vivide lazulinis, remigibus primariis nigris, 1^a et 2^a macula alba mediana in latere interiore, quatuor sequentibus utrinque similiter notatis; remigibus secundariis nigris, apicem versus in latere exteriori viridi-cæruleis; caudæ tectricibus superioribus nigris, plumis uropygii lazulinis obtectis, rectricibus nigris, apicibus obscure cæruleis. Pectus, venter et hypochondria pallide viridia, nitore cærulescente; abdomen, crissum, tectricesque caudæ inferiores coccinea, rostrum fuscum, pedes pallidi.

I had described and figured the above bird under the impression that it was a new species, when I found that it was already described by M. Hartlaub of Bremen in the 'Revue Zoologique,' 1843, p. 65. As however the species is rare in collections, the present delineation will make it better known. It inhabits Malacca.



pitt. cucullata. Gmel.

Pitta cucullata: Gmel.



The crown is deep ferruginous; the chin, throat and sides of the head deep black, forming a collar on the nape. Back, scapulars, tertials, and covers next the body dark green; the outward greater covers dark greenish blue, the lesser covers and rump bright glossy azure; primaries black, the first and second with a medial white spot on the inner web, the four next with a white bar crossing both webs; secondaries black, broadly margined externally with greenish blue towards their extremities. Upper tail-covers black, concealed by the blue feathers of the rump; tail black, tipped with greenish blue. Breast, upper belly and sides pale sea-green with azure reflections; abdomen, vent and lower tail-covers crimson. Beak fuscous, legs and claws pale.

Total length 7 inches; beak to gape 1 inch, to front 9 lines; wing 4 inches 2 lines; medial rectrices 1 inch 6 lines, external 1 inch 4 lines; tarsus 1 inch 4 lines.

TURDIDÆ, PYCNONOTINÆ.

CRINIGER ? ICTERICUS, Strickl.

C. corpore supra olivaceo-viridi, remigibus fuscis, extus ferrugineo-flavido, intus stramineo-marginatis, rectricibus olivaceo-viridibus, intus stramineo-marginatis, loris, superciliis, genis, corporeque toto inferno læte flavis, rostro pedibusque cinerascens.

This bird differs from the type of *Pycnonotus* only in the beak and rictal bristles being somewhat longer. As it possesses nuchal bristles I refer it for the present to *Criniger*, Temm., though that character is common to most of the true *Pycnonoti*. In fact, there seems no very good ground for separating these two genera at all. The present bird resembles Brisson's description of his *Merula olivacea indica* (*Turdus indicus*, Gmel.), but its dimensions are considerably less. I believe it to have been brought from the East Indies, but do not know the precise habitat.

Upper parts olive-green; quills fuscous, margined externally with ferruginous yellow and internally with straw-colour, as are the rectrices. Lores, circuit of eye, and whole lower parts bright yellow, with a slight olive tinge on the breast. Beak and legs cinereous.

Total length 7 inches; beak to gape $9\frac{1}{2}$ lines, to front $7\frac{1}{2}$; rictal bristles $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch; wings $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; medial and lateral rectrices $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tarsus 8 lines.

PYCNONOTUS FINLAYSONI, Strickl.

Brachypus finlaysoni, Horsf. MSS.

P. fronte, genis guttureque flavis (plumarum scapis flavissimis); pileo olivascente-cinereo; loris nigris, dorso, alis, caudaque obscure olivaceis, remigibus rectricibusque extus olivaceo-flavescentibus, rectricibus lateralibus strictissime flavido terminatis; pectore et ab-

domine cinereo-olivaceis, ventre imo crisso et alarum tectricibus infernis læte flavis. Rostrum pedesque corneo-brunnei.

I am not aware that this bird has been yet described, but as it has received from Dr. Horsfield the MS. name of *Finlaysoni*, I think it right to adopt that appellation. It is a typical *Pycnonotus*; the form of the beak agrees with that of *P. capensis*, and the feathers of the rump are very long and downy. It is probably from some of the Malasian islands, but I am unacquainted with the precise habitat.

Front, cheeks and chin yellow, brightest down the middle of each feather; lores velvety black. Upper parts obscure olive, grayish on the crown, and yellowish on the wings and tail; three or four pairs of lateral rectrices narrowly tipped with pale yellowish. Below dirty olive; lower belly, tail-covers and lower wing-covers bright yellow. Beak and legs corneous.

Total length $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches; beak to gape $7\frac{1}{2}$ lines, to front $6\frac{1}{2}$ lines; wing 3 inches 1 line; medial rectrices $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, external 2 inches 10 lines; tarsus 9 lines.

PYCNONOTUS CROCORRHOU, Strickl.

Yellow-vented Flycatcher, *Brown, Ill. Zool.* pl. 31. f. 1.

Muscicapa hæmorrhousa, β , *Gm.*

Turdus hæmorrhous, *Horsf. in Linn. Trans.* vol. xiii. p. 147.

Ixos hæmorrhous, *Vigors in Raffles's Life*, p. 661.

P. capite subcristato, facie, mento, nigerrimis; dorso alisque fuscis, marginibus pennarum pallidioribus, caudæ tectricibus superioribus albis; cauda fusco-nigricante, tenuiter albedo terminata; regione parotica alba; partibus infernis cinerascens-albidis, crisso læte aurantio-croceo. Rostrum pedesque nigri.

This bird, which has been long known, requires a new specific name, being quite distinct from the true *Pycnonotus hæmorrhous* (Gmel.) of Ceylon, in which the vent is crimson. If we regard the genus *Pycnonotus* of Kuhl to be typified by *Turdus capensis*, Linn., we must refer to it all the species of *Hæmatornis*, Swains., and the present bird among the number. It closely agrees in form with *Pycnonotus capensis*, Linn., but is at once distinguished by the vent being orange instead of yellow, and by other characters.

This bird inhabits Java. The head and chin are black; back and wings dusky, with paler margins; rump white; tail black-brown, narrowly tipped with whitish; ears white; lower parts dirty white; under tail-covers bright saffron-colour; beak and legs black.

Total length $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches; beak to gape 10 lines, to front $7\frac{1}{2}$ lines; wing $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; medial rectrices 3 inches 7 lines, external 3 inches 5 lines; tarsus 10 lines.

PYCNONOTUS FLAVIRICTUS, Strickl.

*P. striga superciliari a naribus excurrente, alteraque suboculari albis, loris nigris, macula in mandibulæ basi mentoque flavis; capite corporeque toto supra obscure olivaceis, remigibus secundariis re-
trixibusque basin versus flavido-olivaceis limbatis, hisce strictis-
sime albido terminatis; corpore inferno cinerascanti-albido, flavido
palescente strigato, crisso pallide flavo. Rostrum pedesque cor-
neo-brunnei.*

I purchased this bird from a dealer, who informed me it was from Madras. It is a typical *Pycnonotus*, with the rump-feathers very downy, nearly allied to *P. goiavier*, Scop. (*Muscicapa psidii*, *Gmel.*, *Turdus analis*, *Horsf.*), but is distinguished by the gonys being slightly curved upwards, by the yellow rictal spot, &c.

A white superciliary streak from the nostrils is separated from one below the eye by the black lores. The tip of the chin and a spot at the base of the lower mandible are yellow. Upper parts obscure olive; secondaries and rectrices margined with yellowish olive, the latter narrowly tipped with whitish. Lower parts dirty white; feathers margined laterally with very pale yellow, producing a streaked appearance. Vent and lower tail-covers pale yellow.

Total length $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; beak to gape $\frac{5}{4}$ of an inch, to front 7 lines; wing 3 inches 5 lines; medial rectrices $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, external 3 inches 1 line; tarsus 11 lines.

HYPSSIPETES PHILIPPENSIS, Strickl.

*H. pileo cinereo-fusco, dorso alisque fusco-olivaceis, remigibus fuscis extus fusco-olivaceo limbatis, re-
trixibus fuscis; genis gulaque
fusco-ferrugineis, scapis pennarum albidis, pectore et abdomine
olivaceo-albidis, crisso albido. Rostrum pedesque corneo-fusci.*

This species agrees with the type of *Hypsipetes*, except in the tail being slightly rounded. It was brought by Mr. Cuming from Manilla. The feathers of the crown and chin are pointed. Three or four nuchal bristles project half an inch beyond the plumage. Rump-feathers downy.

Crown cinereous brown. Upper parts dark olive; remiges and rectrices fuscous, the former margined with olive; cheeks and chin obscure ferruginous, the shafts of each feather whitish. Lower parts dirty white with an olive tinge; lower tail-covers whitish. Beak and legs corneous.

Total length $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches; beak to gape $11\frac{1}{2}$ lines, to front 10 lines, height 3 lines, breadth $3\frac{1}{2}$ lines; wing 3 inches 8 lines; medial rectrices 3 inches 6 lines, external 3 inches 4 lines; tarsus $8\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

MUSCICAPIDÆ, TYRANNINÆ.

SUIRIRI? ICTEROPHRYS (Vieill.). [Plate XII.]

Suiriri obscuro y amarillo, *Azara*.Muscicapa icterophrys, *Vieill*.

S. fronte, pileo, nucha et dorso toto olivaceo-viridi, alis fuscis, tectricibus omnibus large, remigibus secundariis tertiarisque stricte, cinerascete albido terminatis, caudæ tectricibus supernis fusco-olivaceis, cauda subfurcata, fusco-atra, rectricibus externis extus albido marginatis; linea superciliari læte flava a naribus oriente; loris plumisque paroticis olivaceo-fuscis; corpore toto inferno læte flavo. Rostrum pedesque atri.

Inhabits Buenos Ayres.

Of the numerous species of American birds which have been classed in the genera *Tyrannula* and *Elania*, and which exhibit much variety in the modifications of the beak, the present one has that organ the most elongate; indeed it approaches in form the beak of the *Sylvicoline* genus *Myiodiotes*, though the straight culmen, the comparatively short black tarsi, covered with seven or eight short scuta, the slender toes and sharp claws, show the true place of the bird to be among the *Tyranninæ*. I had intended making this the type of a new genus, under the name of *Satrapa* (*quasi* a petty tyrant), but perceiving that M. D'Orbigny has included it in his genus *Suiriri*, I retain that generic name for the present. M. D'Orbigny admits that it differs in its smaller head, more slender beak and longer tarsi from the *Suiriri* of Azara, no. 179, which is the type of his genus; but not having examined the latter bird, I am fearful of creating a new genus without sufficient reason. M. D'Orbigny's *second* species of *Suiriri* belongs to Gould's genus *Pyrocephalus*, a very distinct form from the present bird.

Above olive-green, beneath bright yellow; wings dusky, the covers broadly, the secondaries and tertiaries narrowly, edged with grayish white. Tail very dark brown, outer rectrices margined externally with whitish. A bright yellow streak from the nostrils over the eye. Lores and ear-covers dusky olive. Beak and legs black.

Total length $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches; beak to gape 8 lines, to front 6 lines, width $2\frac{1}{2}$ lines, height 2 lines; wing $3\frac{1}{4}$ lines; medial rectrices $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, external $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches; tarsus 9 lines; middle toe and claw $8\frac{1}{2}$ lines, hind ditto 6 lines; outer toe slightly longer than the inner.

EUSCARTHMUS CINEREUS, Strickl.

E. capite supra nigro, plumis medianis basin versus albis, dorso cinereo, in uropygio dilutiore, tectricibus minoribus cinereis, mediis et majoribus fusco-nigris, cinereo terminatis; remigibus fusco-



prol. lach. Linn. imp.

Suiriri ? ictrophrys: Vieill.







priv. lib. J. J. J. J. J.

Holoenem is flammatus Strickl.

nigris, tertiariis cinereo limbatis; reatricibus fusco-nigris; gula pectoreque dilute cinereis, abdomine crissoque albidis. Rostrum pedesque atro-fusci.

Inhabits Chili.

Beak slightly broader than in *E. parulus* (Kittlitz), and proving the affinity of this genus to *Tyrannula*. Feathers of the crown rather lengthened, forming a crest.

Crown black, with a concealed white vertical spot. Upper parts gray, palest on the rump; middle and greater wing-covers dusky black, tipped with gray; remiges dusky, tertials margined with gray; tail dusky black; chin, throat and breast pale gray; belly and lower tail-covers nearly white; beak and legs blackish.

Total length 4 inches; beak to gape 6 lines, to front 4 lines; wing 2 inches 2 lines; medial rectrices 2 inches, external 1 inch 10 lines; tarsus 8 lines.

LANIIDÆ, FORMICARIINÆ*.

Genus HOLOCNEMIS, Strickl. (*ὄλος*, integer, *κνημῖς*, ocrea.)

Rostrum elongatum, ad basin subdepressum, apicem versus subcompressum, mandibulis juxta apicem leviter emarginatis. Culmen rectus, dextro deflexo; commissura recta, ad apicem deflexa, gonyes elongata, subrecta, leviter ascendens. Vibrissæ nullæ. Nares ovatae, nudae, a plumis lori subremotae. Alae mediocres, rotundatae, remige 4^a vel 5^a longissima, remige 1^a dimidio brevior. Cauda subbrevis, rotundata. Tarsi elongati, acrotarsiis et paratarsiis integris. Digiti sublongi, graciles; externus phalange prima ad medium annexus.

The two birds which I propose to distinguish under the above generic name are distinguished from the genera *Formicivora*, Swains., and *Myrmeciza*, Gray, by the elongate beak, short tail, and entire acrotarsus; the latter character, as well as their greater length of tail, distinguishes them from *Urotomus*, Swains., and the greater freedom of the external toe separates them from *Pithys*, Vieill. Possibly the present genus may be referable to *Leptorhynchus*, Menetries; but as the latter name is preoccupied, *Holocnemis* may in that case take its place.

HOLOCNEMIS FLAMMATA, Strickl. [Plate XIII.]

H. corpore supra olivaceo-fusco, alis fuscis, tetricibus omnibus olivaceo limbatis, scapis et gutta subtriquetra apicali albis; remigibus olivaceo limbatis; cauda obscure fusca, reatricibus obtuse acuminatis, lateralibus albedo stricte terminatis; gula alba; genis et partibus infernis pallide olivaceis, litura in singulis plumis longi-

* In this subfamily I include the genus *Thamnophilus*, as it cannot possibly be separated from the American Ant-thrushes in any natural arrangement.